

PRAISE IN EVERY SEASON

December 6

Praise is an expression of adoration—we are acknowledging God, who He is and our need for Him.

Psalm 150 (AMP) – *“Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty heavens. Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to [the abundance of] His greatness. Praise Him with trumpet sound; Praise Him with harp and lyre. Praise Him with tambourine and dancing; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flute. Praise Him with resounding cymbals; Praise Him with loud cymbals. Let everything that has breath and every breath of life praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! (Hallelujah!).”*

What is Praise?

- Dictionary – *to commend; to applaud; to express approval or admiration of; to extol in words or in song; to magnify; to glorify*
- Something we direct toward God or something we express to others about God.
- Praise is adoration of God—always active, assertive and demonstrative.
- It can begin with a mind set on God, but those thoughts must turn into an outward expression for it to be praise.
- It is vocal, audible or visible.
- It might be singing, declaring, dancing, walking in obedience, proclaiming scripture, clapping, etc.

THE FOCUS OF PRAISE: Always on who God is and what He has done, His character and His wondrous acts.

- When God does something on our behalf, we praise Him.
- Even when we have no particular act to praise Him for, He is still worthy to be praised for who He is.

HOW & WHY WE PRAISE:

Psalm 103 (NLT) – *“Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart (HOW), I will praise his holy name. Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. (WHY...) He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle’s!”*

WHEN WE PRAISE:

Psalm 34:1-3 (NLT) – *“I will praise the Lord at all times. I will constantly speak his praises. I will boast only in the Lord; let all who are helpless take heart. Come, let us tell of the Lord’s greatness; let us exalt his name together.”*

- The hopeful and helpless should both praise Him.

- David goes from “I” to “WE”.
- He invites the helpless and afflicted to worship with him—“...let US tell of the Lord’s greatness...”.
- He wants them to know He is putting his attention and praise on the Lord despite all he has faced and they should do the same.
- Praise wasn’t meant to be used only at the breakthrough, but before we see it.
- James 3:9-10 (NLT) – “Sometimes it (tongue) praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!”—choose praise!!

Psalm 113:3 (NIV) – “From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.”

- Not just everywhere from east to west, but at every time of the day as the sun moves.

The Power of Praise

IT HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE YOUR SITUATION

King Jehoshaphat and Judah – 2 Chronicles 20

- A large army from Edom was coming against Judah.
- King Jehoshaphat called an assembly to seek the Lord. They confessed they had no power to face their enemy and asked God for direction.
- READ: 2 Chronicles 20:15-23, 27-28
- They started and ended with praise.
- They decided that praise wasn’t based on feelings as they entered into battle.
- Their focus wasn’t on the battle in front of them or the enemy, but on God who was the solution.
- They were not rebuking the enemy or telling God how to act in a specific way—they praised Him for who He is.
- When we focus on who God is, the door opens for a miracle to happen.
- The real warriors in this battle were not the soldiers, but the worshipers.
- Imagine the armies’ response, “You’re going to send out the artists?”
- “Take up your positions; stand firm...do not be afraid; do not be discouraged...Go out to face them...”—they didn’t get to sit and watch the Lord move, but their participation and action was necessary for the breakthrough.
- God’s solution to our prayers isn’t always to remove our enemies from us, but to require us to face them in order to see breakthrough—they faced their enemies with praise.
- Praise was the key for their breakthrough to happen.

David played the harp and Saul was delivered from a tormenting spirit.

Paul and Silas

- They delivered a slave girl who was able to predict the future because of demonic influence.
- Her owner was mad because her demonic stronghold made him money.
- Paul and Silas were arrested and thrown in jail.
- Acts 16:25-26 (NIV) – *“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison doors flew open, and everybody’s chains came loose.”*
- Not just Paul and Silas were set free, but everyone who was listening.
- Their praise affected everyone around them.

IT HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE YOU AND YOUR PERSPECTIVE

- Praise always draws you closer to the Lord where you discover more about Him and what He is doing in your life.

Praise is a choice—it can’t always be based on how we feel in the moment.

- J.B.—I learned a perspective on choosing to bless the Lord in the worst of circumstances.
- He lost livestock and servants in 3 different waves.
- While Job’s children were feasting together, a mighty wind collapsed the house and killed all his children.
- He found he had no cause to quarrel with God but much cause to praise Him for his blessings—his life was spared, he still had his wife, he still had servants and health.
- Job 1:20-22 (AMP) – *“Then Job arose and rent his robe and shaved his head and fell down upon the ground and worshiped and said, Naked (without possessions) came I [into this world] from my mother’s womb, and naked (without possessions) shall I depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed (praised and magnified in worship) be the name of the Lord! In all this Job sinned not nor charged God foolishly.”*
- Job chose to praise the Lord when he could have more easily chose to curse God like his wife encouraged him to do.
- Job 42:10, 12 (NIV) – *“...the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before...the Lord blessed the latter part of Job’s life more than the first.”*
- Job lived a long and full life.

Habakkuk 3:17-18 (NLT) – *“Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren;*

even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!"

- What could you put in there?... "Even though I have large financial needs, and the bills aren't getting paid; even though my house has been on the market for 6 months, and I don't see breakthrough on the horizon; even though I am waiting for fulfillment of God's promises, and my son still hasn't given his life over to Jesus...yet I will rejoice!"

Praise is not an escape—it's a place of getting your perspective...getting your eyes off of your problem and onto Jesus.

"Let Everything That Has Breath" by Matt Redman

Praise You in the morning, praise You in the evening

Praise You when I'm young and when I'm old

Praise You when I'm laughing, praise You when I'm grieving

Praise You every season of the soul

If we could see how much You're worth

Your power, Your might, Your endless love

Then surely we would never cease to praise